

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 8-18 remain in the application. Claims 8-9 have been amended. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled. Claims 13-18 have been allowed.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-7 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Grützmacher et al. (US Pat. No. 5,481,971) in view of Jeschke et al. (US Pat. No. 4,702,469) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-7 have been cancelled.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statements in the section entitled "Response to Arguments" on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and that claims 13-18 are allowable (should be "allowed" according to the Office Action Summary page).

Claim 9 has been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claims 8 and 10-12 are ultimately dependent on allowable claim 9, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

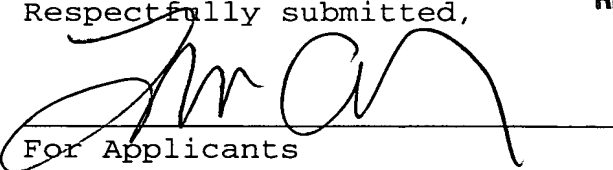
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-12 in addition to allowed claims 13-18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308


For Applicants

YC

May 28, 2004
Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101